



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

Evan Anderson  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 58141  
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Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
[58141-31149525@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:58141-31149525@requests.muckrock.com)

RE: FOIA-2018-00404  
*Hot Dog Report*

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated July 13, 2018, to the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in which you requested access to a copy of any emails discussing Clear Labs' 2015 report on hot dogs. We received your request in our Office on July 17, 2018.

The FSIS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the Agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, we conducted a records search in the Office of the Chief Information Officer. FSIS' search began on July 18, 2018, and our response includes records in FSIS' control on that date.

We have located 24 pages that are responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that portions of the pages fall within the exemptions to the FOIA's mandatory disclosure requirements, as explained below. In particular, we have determined that portions of these documents are exempt from disclosure under (b)(6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. Accordingly, this request is granted in part.

Portions of the responsive records are exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy. The types of information withheld under Exemption 6 include the names, addresses, or cell phone numbers of employees of Establishments and third parties, including, but not limited to interviewees or customers.

You may appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting your appeal. The envelope should be plainly marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal. If you decide to appeal this determination, please send your appeal to:

Paul Kiecker, Acting Administrator  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 1170, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Please be advised that your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under any subsequent FOIA requests. However, FSIS does not release your personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or Social Security Numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

If you have any questions about the way this request was handled, please contact Leslyn Maxwell at 202-720-8215 or via email at [Leslyn.Maxwell@usda.gov](mailto:Leslyn.Maxwell@usda.gov). If you have general questions about FSIS' FOIA procedures or regulations, please contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Anne Sylvester, at 202-205-0144 or via email at [Anne.Sylvester@usda.gov](mailto:Anne.Sylvester@usda.gov).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

Arianne M. Perkins  
Director, Freedom of Information Act Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Enclosure

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly